

Importance of Openness in Geospatial Education and Research

Suchith Anand

Nottingham Geospatial Institute, Nottingham Geospatial Building, University of Nottingham
NG7 2 TU, UK

Suchith.Anand@nottingham.ac.uk

Abstract: It is a well known fact that making resources including software and data openly available offers an opportunity for knowledge to be shared widely so as to increase learning opportunities for everyone. In this presentation, I will present "Geo For All" initiative which is lead by the International Cartographic Association (ICA), Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo) and International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) with the aim to create openness in Geo Education for developing creative and open minds in students which is critical for building open innovation and contributes to building up Open Knowledge for the benefit of the whole society and for our future generations. By combining the potential of free and open GI software, open data, open standards, open access to research publications, open education resources in Geospatial education and research will enable creation of sustainable innovation ecosystem to advance the discipline. This is key for widening geospatial education opportunities, accelerating new discoveries and helping solving global cross disciplinary societal challenges from Climate change mitigation to sustainable cities.

It is also important to develop a pedagogical framework that will introduce essential strategies for the development of an innovative learning approach towards effective spatial thinking in current and future students. In this presentation, I will also give an example of a current project in this theme called GEOTHNK – Semantic pathways for building a spatially-thinking society. The GEOTHNK consortium led by the National Technical University of Athens brings together many different organisations with high quality and unique expertise in their field who have decided to join forces in a European effort to propose a scientifically grounded, technologically sustainable, and organisationally disruptive framework to meet the challenge for the development of new learning pathways across traditional education sectors and informal learning situations making effective use of open educational practices and resources.

Keywords: open source, open knowledge, open data, open standards, open access, open education